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Alberta. Task Force on
Urbanization and the Future.

Progress Report, March 1973.

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Task Force On Urbanization And The Future



Task Force on Urbanization and the Future

Progress Report

The main work of the Task Force has been concentrated on the question of Urban and Regional Research in Alberta. In addition the staff have maintained a close working relationship with various projects funded by the Task Force but carried out by other agencies.



1. Urban and Regional Research

The various activities of research being conducted are:

- (a) Data collection, interpretation, dissemination, analysis
 - (b) Research
- Progress Report

Task Force on Urbanization and the Future

- (a) Research Organization
- (b) Study of Research
- (c) Supervised Research Activities

(d) Data

In the question of data, the Task Force itself has sponsored funds for hiring a senior researcher for one year to work on the re-orientation of the data base now being established in Alberta. A number of agencies in Alberta are now in various stages of establishing such data bases, e.g. City of Edmonton, City of Calgary, City of Lethbridge, Southern Regional Planning Commission, Calgary Regional Planning Commission, Provincial Research Department of Municipal Affairs Planning Branch, Department of Lands and Forests etc.

It is the view of all these agencies that the maintenance and long term use of these systems is heavily dependent on the degree to which they can be related to one another. It is also agreed that we are at this time at an early enough stage that adjustments are still possible but that within a year or two this may no longer be the case.

March 1973

Task Force on Urbanization and the Future

Progress Report

The main work of the Task Force has been concentrated on the question of Urban and Regional Research in Alberta. In addition the staff have maintained a close working relationship with research projects funded by the Task Force but carried out by other groups or agencies.

1. Urban and Regional Research

The various aspects of research being examined include:

- (a) Data: adequacy, accessibility, comparability, privacy
- (b) Reference Systems: inventory of completed and ongoing studies
- (c) Present and Proposed Research Programs
- (d) Research Capabilities
- (e) Funding of Research
- (f) Provincial Research Policies.

(a) Data

On the question of data, the Task Force Board has approved funds for hiring a senior researcher for one year to work on the co-ordination of the data banks now being established in Alberta. A number of agencies in Alberta are now in various stages of establishing such data banks (e.g. City of Edmonton, City of Calgary, City of Lethbridge, Edmonton Regional Planning Commission, Calgary Regional Planning Commission, Provincial Assessor, Department of Municipal Affairs Planning Branch, Department of Lands and Forests etc.).

It is the view of all these agencies that the usefulness and long term costs of these systems is heavily dependant on the degree to which they can be related to one another. It is also agreed that we are at this time at an early enough stage that adjustments are still possible but that within a year or two this may no longer be the case.

The committee supervising this project consists of the Director of the Provincial Data Processing Branch, the Provincial Director of Surveys, a representative from the Alberta Bureau of Statistics, and the Director of the Task Force. The Committee has met twice, and applications for the position of Research Co-ordinator have been reviewed. A further two weeks has been given to receive any additional applications.

(b) Inventory of Research Studies

The Task Force is now preparing an inventory of urban and regional research studies in Alberta, 1950-1972. This will be a cross indexed list by author, subject matter and location. It will cover Federal, Provincial, Regional and Municipal studies as well as Universities and other non governmental agencies. The project is receiving support and co-operation from potential users and it is considered that it will be a useful aid to research in the province. It is estimated that the inventory will take approximately six months to prepare.

The work is being carried out by Mrs. Linda DeGrandis. To date all existing lists and inventories have been examined. Individual agencies are now being contacted to establish the completeness of the lists. Attached to this report are samples of the type of lists being prepared for each agency and also the format in which the final information will be made available on five inch by eight inch file cards.

(c) & (e) Research Programs and Funding of Research

Some of the initial information on these matters has been collected by the staff and work is continuing. Final reports will be prepared and made available to the Task Force Board.

2. Research Grants provided by the Task Force to assist Urban and Regional Research

(a) Regional Resource Project No. 1 (Drumheller Area)

This is a one year pilot project which has been in operation since September, 1972. It involves the provision of information and technical assistance to the eleven municipalities involved. A further objective is the full utilization of all available government programs of assistance to smaller communities. The project is administered by the municipalities and the technical advisor and project director is Mr. Hugh Bodmer. A recent Progress Report summarized the

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activities to January 15th. Since that time three local development companies have been formed in Bassano, Carbon and Trochu. A number of others are still under discussion. The development companies are a requirement if these municipalities wish to avail themselves of loans under certain programs; administered by Alberta Housing etc.

Due to a concern for present water supply, or for reserves for potential development; this matter has been examined by the Regional Resource Project. The water resources division of the Department of the Environment has on request agreed to carry out the necessary water and drainage studies for these municipalities.

Discussions are being held with the Calgary Regional Planning Commission on the types of economic studies to be carried out and what assistance the municipalities might give to these studies. The Regional Resource Committee has supported seven Opportunity For Youth projects now approved for Rosedale, Trochu, Morrin, Beiseker, Carbon and I.D. 7. These are mainly in the areas of environment and recreation.

More recently a proposal has been submitted to the Department of Agriculture for comment. This involves the development in the Village of Hussar of facilities for commercial grain drying, unit train loading, seed cleaning, pelleting of screenings, feed grain sorting and cleaning of malting barley. The project was developed in conjunction with a number of farmers in the area.

(b) The Mill Woods Area Impact Study

The object of this study is to determine the data information and analytical methods required to assess the impact of large scale public ownership of land (Mill Woods) on land costs and housing mix in the metropolitan area. The study is being jointly financed by C.M.H.C., A.H.C. and the Task Force. The consultants are Dr. J. McFadyen and Dr. C. Janssen. The project is being administered by a committee with representation from the three sponsoring agencies. The City of Edmonton and Calgary Regional Planning Commissions are ex-officio members. There have to date been several meetings for discussion with the consultants. The study is at too early a stage for definite results. One of the difficulties is that surprisingly little basic research has been done on urban land costs in Canada, and the data is sparse.

(c) Assistance in publication of research material

Town of High River - (assistance by the Task Force in the publication of a pamphlet on planning methods and development policies.) The Town of High River has in the past few years pursued policies of land banking for residential development, land assembly for a central area mall, public participation in policy development etc. It is now engaged in a longer term expansion program. The Town had requested assistance from the Task Force in publishing a pamphlet summarizing their experience and approach to planning and development. The pamphlet would be made available to other municipalities, provincial departments, and citizen groups.

(d) Other activities

As a result of requests from various agencies undertaking planning studies or reviewing policies, the Director of the Task Force is serving as a member of technical advisory committees for the following:

- The City of Calgary Urban Evaluation Study. This is a major study examining long term urban growth alternatives for the city of Calgary.
- The Calgary Regional Planning Commission Sub Regional Study. This deals with the same questions as the City study but for those areas beyond the city boundary.
- The Edmonton Regional Planning Commission Urban Form Study. This will examine the long term growth alternatives for the Edmonton Metropolitan Region.
- Solid Waste Disposal. This committee has representatives from the Department of Environment and Municipal Affairs and is dealing with a number of diverse problems arising from the disposal of solid wastes.

3. Contact with Research Agencies in other areas

The Task Force is at present exchanging publications and has established contact to obtain information from a number of other research agencies; these include:

- (1) The Ministry of State For Urban Affairs in Ottawa

- (2) Research Liaison Group, Policy Planning Division;
Central Mortgage and Housing Corporation
- (3) The Intergovernmental Committee on Urban and
Regional Research, Toronto
- (4) The Canadian Council for Urban and Regional
Research, Ottawa
- (5) The Science Council of Canada, Ottawa
- (6) The Urban Advisory Commission, Regina
- (7) The Australian Institute of Urban Studies, Canberra.

APPENDIX I

Research Inventory

Samples of Research Lists by Agencies
and reference card format to be used.

EDMONTON REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION,
#602-10025 106th Street,
Edmonton, Alberta,
(403) 423-3111,
Director: N.R. Giffen

- 1950: A Report on some Preliminary Planning Studies for the Town of Beverley.
- 1953: Programs for District Towns: Study and Objectives.
The Journey to Work in the Metropolitan Area of Edmonton.
- 1954: Regional Planning and Orderly Development of the Metropolitan Area of Edmonton.
A General Plan for Fort Saskatchewan.
Smallholdings: Smallholdings Committee Report.
- 1955: General Plan - Town of Leduc.
- 1956: A General Plan for the Municipal District of Stony Plain.
- 1957: A Public Works Program.
- 1958: An Economic Base Survey for the Edmonton Metropolitan Area.
- 1960: Edmonton District Water Supply.
- 1961: Urban Population Estimates.
- 1963: Proposed Road and Subdivision Study: Pigeon Lake Land Area.
Metropolitan Edmonton Transportation Study.
- 1964: Metropolitan River Valleys, Park and Recreation Study.
Report on Sand and Gravel Workings.
- 1965: Big Lake Study - Edmonton.
Major Shopping Centre Location in the Edmonton Region.
- 1966: Auto Wreckage Report.
Regional Rural Road Study. Volume 1. Requirements.
- 1967: Urban Renewal - Town of St. Albert. 3 Volumes.
Regional Rural Road Study. Volume 2. Plan and Program.
- 1968: Urban Renewal - Town of Leduc. 3 Volumes.
University Site Selection Study.
Mobile Home Court Study.
- 1969: Airport Study.
Lac Ste. Anne: An Investigation of the Economic Potential and Industrial Site Analysis.

- 1971: South-east Mayerthorpe Outline Plan.
Cooking Lake-Hastings Lake Brief: Regional and Municipal
Planning Considerations.
County of Parkland - Outline Plan. Preliminary Draft.
Central Area Plan: Town of Spruce Grove.
Market Areas and Service Centres Study: Edmonton Region.
- 1972: Industrial Land Inventory.
Preliminary Regional Plan: Metropolitan Part, Regulations.

THE TASK FORCE ON URBANIZATION AND THE FUTURE		506
EDE		CARD NO.
INDEX		
TITLE	LAC STE ANNE: AN INVESTIGATION OF THE ECONOMIC POTENTIAL AND INDUSTRIAL SITE ANALYSIS	1969
		STATUS
		County Lac Ste. Anne
AUTHOR	Edmonton Regional Planning Commission	
AVAILABILITY	#602-10025 106th Street, Edmonton, Alberta	423-3111 \$1.50
CONTACT	Director: N.R. Giffen Research Section: E.L. Dymtruk	
ANNOTATION	The report was prepared to analyze the potential for industry and tourism in the county of Lac Ste. Anne. The abandonment of marginal lands, increased farm consolidation and mechanization and the pull of the Edmonton area has resulted in a slow but steady decline in population. The prospect of continued decline prompted the residents of the county to seek the assistance of the staff of the Edmonton Regional Planning Commission in reviewing their economic situation with hope of attracting new industry. Settlement pattern, regional location and the strength of economic activities are discussed in Part A. Part B examines the particular advantages of the county and suggests prospects for alternative activities which include tourism, servicing of highway motorists, and the development of natural resources. Part C establishes the criteria for the selection of potential industrial sites and defines specific sites suitable to the attraction of manufacturing. General recommendations are made with respect to alleviating the problem of slow economic growth in the county.	

PROVINCIAL PLANNING BRANCH,
Department of Municipal Affairs,
9912-107th Street,
Edmonton, Alberta,
(403) 429-4821,
Director: Noel Dant.

- 1959: Pembina controlled area Preliminary Regional Plan.
- 1966: Report and Recommendations regarding the Hamlet of Smith.
Slave Lake - Report on need and demand for public housing.
Grand Cache Townsite - A Submission on the Feasibility
for the Creation of a New Town.
Rainbow Lake Townsite.
Study: Coalbranch Sub-Region.
- 1967: Whitecourt General Plan.
Report to the Provincial Planning Board on the Application
of the Town of Redwater for New Town Status.
Report on Fox Creek New Town.
- 1968: "New Towns in Alberta," An Address to the Northern Develop-
ment Conference.
Report on the Application for New Town Status for the
Hamlet of Smith.
Fort McMurray Land Requirements for Commercial Use.
Report on Residential Location for Luscar Coal Employees.
Regional Planning: Proposed North Saskatchewan Regional
Planning Commission.
Research Report - Northern Alberta Municipalities
- 1969: Physical Site Evaluation for Urban Land Use Development
General Plan - Claresholm
Fort McMurray - Preliminary Survey on Housing Conditions.
- 1970: Urban Land Use Analysis of Selected Alberta Communities.
Peers-Whitecourt Land Use Study.
Population I, II, and III.
- 1971: Vermilion Planning Report.
Investigation into the Relationship of Noxious Industry
to Residential Development in Alberta. Working Paper #1.
Subregional Plan for the Fort McMurray Area.
Summary and Description of Data Base, Data Processing
System and Computerized Document Retrieval System in Regional
Land Use Studies.
- 1972: New Town of Fort McMurray General Plan.
Planning Report for Barrhead.
Banff- Jasper Autonomy Report.
Bonnyville Planning Report.
Report of the Committee on Uniform Building Standards for
Alberta.

ENC	THE TASK FORCE ON URBANIZATION AND THE FUTURE	15
INDEX TITLE	INVESTIGATION INTO THE RELATIONSHIP OF NOXIOUS INDUSTRY TO RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT IN ALBERTA WORKING PAPER #1	1971 STATUS
AUTHOR	Provincial Planning Branch, Department of Municipal Affairs	
AVAILABILITY		
CONTACT	A.E. Gordichuk	
ANNOTATION	The main purpose of the report was to examine the effects of industrial air pollution on residential development and to recommend guidelines for land use in the neighbourhood of noxious industry. Background material for the paper was gathered both by careful examination of the literature and through a number of personal interviews with individuals and agencies directly concerned with the problem. The report examines the physical and psychological effects of pollution on the individual and outlines legislation in Alberta applicable to its control. The brief suggests that the problem does not lie solely with an inability to provide adequate abatement controls at the source but that residential developments have been allowed too close to industrial activity. Non-developed 'buffer zones' which provide equal protection for both resident and industry are suggested as one means of separating contrasting land uses. The report concludes with a recommendation that the Province of Alberta undertake a comprehensive research program which would make proposals for the future prevention of industrial-residential land use conflicts due to air pollution and create a number of city-centered regional pollution control divisions to aid and advise local governments and planning authorities on the implementation of the findings and proposals of the research program. Six appendices are included which supply relevant information.	

